

Firewood contract in Neyyar Dam area.

* 384. [11] SHRI T. S. RAMASWAMI: Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether any enquiry was made as per the assurance of the Government on the allegations of irregularities regarding the firewood contract in the Neyyar Dam area;

(b) the result of the enquiry;

(c) the records verified; and

(d) the witnesses examined by the enquiring Officer?

Home Minister (SHRI A. J. JOHN):

(a) Yes;

(b) *Prima facie* evidence of irregularities has been found against Shri K. Cyriac Pothan, Divisional Forest Officer, Shri A. S. Ananthasubramoniam, Sub-Division Officer, Shri K. Darmapalan, Ranger, Shri T. K. Madhavan Pillai, Forester, and P. K. Raman Nair and K. Appukuttan, Guards, and they have been placed under suspension pending further enquiry into the allegations.

(c) The files and registers of the Forest Department.

(d) Since the nature of the enquiry made was preliminary, no witnesses were examined.

Purchase through Stores Purchase Committee.

* 385. [12] SHRI K. SATTANATHA KARAYALAR: Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state: †

(a) the number of cars, lorries and bus chassises that were purchased through the Stores Purchase Committee in the past two years:

(b) the makes that have been purchased and the respective prices; and

(c) whether there is any difference between the purchase price and the price fixed by Director General of Supplies of India?

Chief Minister (SHRI PANMPILLI GOVINDA MENON):

(a) 30 cars (pick up vans and estate cars), 5 lorries and 8 bus chassises have been purchased through the Stores Purchase Committee in the past two years.

† As the member was absent, the question was put by Shri P. V. Avira Tharakan with the permission of the Chair.